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HANFORD JOINS COMMUNITY IN CELEBRATING NATIVE AMERICAN HERITAGE MONTH

Energizing Tribal Relations Through Education and Environment

This November, the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) and its Hanford contractors are joining the community in celebrating Native American Heritage Month. President Clinton has proclaimed November as National American Indian Heritage Month in recognition of America's moral and legal obligations to American Indians and the special relationship between tribal governments and the U.S. Government.

This year's Heritage Month theme, "Energizing Tribal Relations Through Education and Environment," conveys the importance Native Americans have given to the interrelated traditions of education and caring for the environment.

"Native American Heritage Month is an opportunity to celebrate and involve the community in Native American traditions and history," said Annabelle Rodriguez, Native American Heritage Month Event Coordinator.

Several events and activities are planned throughout November, including Native American storytelling, food tasting, demonstrations, displays, dancing, and an eight-kilometer fun run. The community is encouraged to participate in the following activities:

- Thursday, November 2, DOE Headquarters will broadcast via satellite its Native American Heritage Month Program. The broadcast will begin at 11:30 a.m. in the Federal Building Auditorium (825 Jadwin Avenue, Richland) for public viewing. The keynote speaker is Randi Teton, the Shoshone-Bannock woman who was the model for the new Sacagawea coin.
- Friday, November 3, Levi Holt of the Nez Perce Tribe will share Nez Perce tribal legends in the Federal Building Auditorium at 11:00 a.m. A Native American food tasting, including pies, stew, corn bread, salmon, soups and more, will immediately follow in Room 142.
- Saturday, November 4, is Native American Awareness Day at the Columbia Basin College Student Union HUB. Activities include: storytelling, flintknapping (arrowhead making), atlatl (spear throwing) demonstrations, dancing by the Wapato Dance Group, a Wanapum tule mat display, a Yakama fisheries display, and several activities for children. For a detailed calendar of the day's activities, please contact Annabelle Rodriguez at 372-0277 or Annette Barnard at 372-0968.
- Tuesday, November 14 at 12:00 p.m., "Disturbing the Dreamers," a movie about the Wanapum People and Hanford, will be shown in the Federal Building Auditorium.
- Sunday, November 19, an eight-kilometer fun run will be held at 1:00 p.m. at the Big Cross Race

Course in Pasco. Registration for the run is \$15, with an event T-shirt or \$6 without a T-shirt. Participants are asked to register by Friday, November 17. Please contact Annabelle Rodriguez at 372-0277 or Ernest Antonio at 375-3809 for registration forms.

- Tuesday, November 21, Angela Buck will give a presentation on Wanapum People from 11:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. in the Bechtel Auditorium, 3350 George Washington Way.

More information on Native American Heritage Month can be obtained by calling Annabelle Rodriguez at (509) 372-0277 or Annette Barnard at (509) 372-0968.

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Historical Note: The U.S. Department of Energy's Richland Operations Office manages the Hanford Site in southeastern Washington State. Hanford was established during World War II as part of the top secret Manhattan Project to produce plutonium for nuclear weapons. Weapons material production was halted in the late 1980s. The Hanford Site is now engaged in the world's largest cleanup effort to deal with the legacy of radioactive and hazardous wastes that resulted from the plutonium production era. The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and the Washington Department of Ecology regulate Hanford's cleanup program under a long-term compliance contract called the Tri-Party Agreement. This agreement sets the framework and timelines on the cleanup work so that Hanford meets environmental standards. Hanford cleanup is focused on three outcomes: restoring the Columbia River Corridor for other uses, transitioning the Central Plateau to long term waste treatment and storage, and preparing for the future.

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